



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

December 15, 2011

AARON SWARTZ  
MUCKROCK  
185 BEACON ST. #3  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02143

**Re: 2012FOIA3220**

Dear Mr. Swartz:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), dated December 1, 2011, and to your request for a waiver of all assessable FOIA fees. Your request was received in this office on December 9, 2011. Specifically, you requested any guidelines or protocols for ICE agents about the procedures for seizing domains.

Any communications between ICE and other government agencies with regard to the seized domains.

Any communications between ICE and intellectual property owners requesting domains be seized or discussing seized domains.

Any court filings requesting authorization to seize domains.

Any internal e-mails mentioning the seized sites.

Any legal memos mentioning the seized sites.

Due to the increasing number of FOIA requests received by this office, we may encounter some delay in processing your request. Per Section 5.5(a) of the DHS FOIA regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, the Department processes FOIA requests according to their order of receipt. Although DHS' goal is to respond within 20 business days of receipt of your request, the FOIA does permit a 10-day extension of this time period. As your request seeks numerous documents that will necessitate a thorough and wide-ranging search, DHS will invoke a 10-day extension for your request, as allowed by Title 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(B). If you care to narrow the scope of your request, please contact our office. We will make every effort to comply with your request in a timely manner; however, there are currently 1121 open requests ahead of yours.

As it relates to your fee waiver request, I have reviewed your letter thoroughly and have determined that you have not presented a convincing argument that AARON SWARTZ is entitled to a blanket waiver of

fees.

The DHS FOIA Regulations, 6 CFR § 5.11(k)(2), set forth six factors to examine in determining whether the applicable legal standard for a fee waiver has been met. We will consider these factors in our evaluation of your request for a fee waiver:

- (1) Whether the subject of the requested records concerns "the operations or activities of the government;"
- (2) Whether the disclosure is "likely to contribute" to an understanding of government operations or activities;
- (3) Whether disclosure of the requested information will contribute to the understanding of the public at large, as opposed to the individual understanding of the requestor or a narrow segment of interested persons;
- (4) Whether the contribution to public understanding of government operations or activities will be "significant;"
- (5) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and
- (6) Whether the magnitude of any identified commercial interest to the requestor is sufficiently large in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requestor.

As a requester, you bear the burden under the FOIA of showing that the fee waiver requirements have been met. Based on my review of your December 1, 2011 letter and for the reasons stated herein, I have determined that your fee waiver request is deficient because you have not sufficiently provided how your request meets one or more of the factors considered..

Since your request for a fee waiver has failed to satisfy each of the required factors, I am denying your fee waiver request.

Provisions of the Act allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. We shall charge you for records in accordance with the DHS Interim FOIA regulations as they apply to non-commercial requestors. As a non-commercial requestor you will be charged 10-cents a page for duplication, although the first 100 pages are free, as are the first two hours of search time, after which you will pay the per quarter-hour rate (\$4.00, \$7.00, \$10.25) of the searcher. We will construe the submission of your request as an agreement to pay up to \$25.00. You will be contacted before any further fees are accrued.

You have the right to appeal the determination to deny your fee waiver request. Should you wish to do so, you must **send your appeal within 60 days of the date of this letter to:** Associate General Counsel (General Law), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Washington, D.C. 20528, following the procedures outlined in Subpart A, Section 5.9, of the DHS Regulations. Your envelope and letter should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." The implementing Department regulations establish the criteria under which the FOIA is administered. Copies of the FOIA and regulations are available at [www.DHS.gov](http://www.DHS.gov).

Your request has been assigned reference number **2012FOIA3220**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to contact this office at (202) 732-0600 or (866) 633-1182. Our mailing address is 500 12th Street, S.W., Stop 5009, Washington, D.C. 20536-5009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Catrina M. Pavlik-Keenan  
FOIA Officer